Mississippi Development Authority P. O. Box 849 Jackson, MS 39205

Contact: Sherry Vance

601.359.3449

Date: April 16, 2002

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JOB FAIR IN CLARKE COUNTY A WELCOME EVENT FOR LAID OFF WORKERS

JACKSON, Miss. – Officials with the Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) will sponsor a job expo Tuesday, April 23, 2002, from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the National Guard Armory in Quitman, Mississippi.

"In our continuing efforts to assist laid off workers in Clarke County, this job expo, one in a series of events designed to assist workers in the Clarke County area, will bring together employers and potential employees," said Jim Lott, director of MDA's Employment Training Division. "We are very pleased with the response from employers wanting to be present, and we anticipate a substantial number of job seekers to attend."

In addition to the Job Fair, the Employment Training Division of the MDA sent Rapid Response team members to meet with the affected workers at Burlington Industries in Clarke County, assisting them in securing unemployment insurance benefits, preparing resumes and career counseling. The Twin Districts local workforce investment area is coordinating efforts with the Clarke County Board of Supervisors and the Clarke County Chamber of Commerce to assist laid off workers at Burlington Industries, as well as other workers affected by layoffs.

"This will be an outstanding job fair," said Joe Buckner, FILL IN HIS TITLE "We have 27 registered employers with a wide range of real job opportunities. People should come prepared with a resume, and be ready to complete job applications. Human resource representatives will be there to interview potential employees and discuss job openings."

The event is co-sponsored by: Mississippi Employment Security Commission, Clarke County Board of Supervisors, Clarke County Chamber of Commerce, City of Quitman, Clarke County Economic Development District, Town of Stonewall, Mid-MS Economic Development District, H. C. Watkins Memorial Hospital, BankPlus, Mississippi Power Company, Mississippi Army National Guard, Clarke County Tribune, Quitman Broadcasting Company and Town of Enterprise.

For more information on the job fair, contact Joe Buckner at ????????